

REMARKS

Claims 11-30 are pending in this application. By this Response, Applicants are amending claims 11, 24 and 30. Accordingly, claims 11-30 are at issue. Applicants respectfully submit no new matter was added by these amendments and that the amendments are fully supported by the Application as originally filed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-21 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas in view of Hershey. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 11, as amended herein, is directed to a network communication system that includes an adapter device that is “directly connected” to an input/output slave device. Additionally, claim 11 further requires that messages be received on a preregistered TCP port selected from a plurality of TCP ports in the adapter.

Claim 24 is directed to an Ethernet module. Similar to claim 1, Claim 24 as been amended to require the module to include a preregistered TCP selected from a plurality of TCP ports for receiving messages over a network connection.

In contrast to the amended claims, neither Salas nor Hershey disclose adapters or modules that are connected directly to input/output device, and which include a preregistered TCP selected from a plurality of ports for receiving messages over a network connection. Accordingly, because the references, either alone or combined, fail to disclose each of the limitations of claims 11 and 24, Applicant respectfully submits claims 11 and 24 are patentable over Salas in view of Hershey.

Claims 12-23 depend on claim 11, either directly or indirectly, and include each of its limitations, and claims 25-29 depend on claim 24, either directly or indirectly, and include each

Page 7

of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 12-23, and 25-29 are also patentable over Salas in view of Hershey.

The Examiner has rejected claims 22, 23 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas in view of Hershey in further view of Friedman. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 11 and 24, as amended herein, are patentable over Salas in view of Hershey. Friedman also fails to disclose an adapter or module connected directly to an input/output device which includes a preregistered TCP selected from a plurality of ports, and therefore does not cure the deficiencies of Salas and Hershey. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 11 and 24 are also patentable over Salas in view of Hershey and further in view of Friedman.

Claims 22 and 23 depend on claim 11, either directly or indirectly, and include each of its limitations, and claim 30 depends on claim 24 and includes each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 22, 23 and 30 are also patentable over Salas in view of Hershey and further in view of Friedman.

Page 8

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit pending claims 11-30 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions concerning this Response.

The Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit Deposit Account No. 23-0280 for any payment deficiencies or overpayments associated with this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 9, 2006

By: Richard C. Himelhoch
Richard C. Himelhoch, Reg. No. 35,544
Customer No. 46901
Wallenstein Wagner & Rockey, Ltd.
311 So. Wacker Drive – 53rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 554-3300

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 9, 2006.

Sarah J. Goodnight
Sarah J. Goodnight (245857)